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Bishop's Stortford Urban District
Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1954

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Members of the Council, 1954-1955

Chairman:

Councillor A. G. WISBEY, G.M., J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor J. E. HAMPTON

(Chairman of Finance and General Purposes
Committee)

Councillor E. J. ARMOND

- „ E. BARRETT
- „ J. E. BARRY
- „ R. P. GAMMIE, M.D.
(Chairman of the Public Health Committee)
- „ G. HURST-GREAVES
- „ P. G. KING
- „ D. G. LACY
- „ MRS. B. M. LEWIS
- „ S. C. C. OSBORNE
(Resigned July, 1954)
- „ L. SCUTTS
- „ R. W. STANFORD, M.A., A.I.N.S.T.P.
- „ MRS. E. M. SMITH, J.P.
(Chairman of Housing and Open Spaces
Committee)
- „ R. J. VENN, T.D.
- „ P. L. T. WALKER, B.A.
- „ H. J. WALTERS
(Elected August, 1954)
- „ G. H. WILLIAMS
- „ T. G. WOOLLEY

Public Health Department

**EIRWEN M. JONES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health**

**A. L. GOOD, F.S.I.A., M.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E., A.I.Hsg.
Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer
Inspector of Meat and other Foods**

**D. L. EVANS, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.,
Additional Sanitary Inspector
(Resigned 26.9.54)**

**F. W. P. HARMSWORTH, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspector
Commenced 1.11.54)**

H. F. B. NICKOLDS

A. TURNER

Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council

Health Department,

The Council House,

Bishop's Stortford,

August, 1955

*To the Chairman and Members,
Bishop's Stortford Urban District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1954, on the health of the Bishop's Stortford Urban District which has been drawn up on the lines indicated in the Circular issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Registrar General's population estimate of 13,480 shows an increase of 270 over the 1953 figure.

The death rate and the birth rate are both higher than last year and the infant mortality rate shows a considerable and welcome fall over the abnormally high figure for 1953. Diseases of the circulatory system accounted for 50.6% of the total deaths in the district.

Although the figure follows the national trend and that this subject has caused considerable comment in the medical world, the figures show that in Bishop's Stortford this group of diseases is essentially one affecting persons of sixty and over. It is therefore a disease of approaching old age.

The deaths in this category under sixty years of age, struck at the height of the individual's working life and it would appear that research should be directed towards the whole range of cardio-vascular diseases from a preventive aspect. It is hoped that following such research, sudden calamities such as coronary thrombosis and allied diseases which appear without warning in the productive years, can be prevented.

It is probable that cardio vascular diseases will continue to appear in the older age groups as a part of the inevitable process of ageing.

Poliomyelitis did not appear during the year and it may

well be that the rather wet summer season curbed the activities of this infamous virus.

Bishop's Stortford is still—and we hope always will be—a very healthy place in which to live and work and, even if our sewage disposal works are a little out of date, there are high hopes of better things to come.

Our thanks are due to the Chairman and members of the Council, for their help and guidance during the year.

We are,

Your obedient Servants,

EIRWEN M. JONES,
Medical Officer of Health

A. L. GOOD,
*Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Housing Officer*

SECTION A

Statistics

(1) General

Area (acres) ...	...	...	...	3,826
Population ...	...	...	...	13,480
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	£116,495
Sum represented by a Penny Rate				£472
Number of inhabited houses ...			4,277	
Density of persons per acre houses	...			3.5 1.1
Average number of occupants per house	...	...	...	3.15

(2) Vital

	Birth Rate per 1,000 population	Death Rate per 1,000 population	Infantile Mortality Rate Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births
England and Wales ...	15.2	11.3	25.5
Bishop's Stortford ...	15.36	11.57	14.49

BIRTHS

Number of Legitimate Births ...	...	198
,, Illegitimate Births ...	...	9
Percentage of Illegitimate Births	...	4.3
Total number of Births	Male	110
	Females	97 207

DEATHS

Total Number of Deaths	156
------------------------	-----	-----	-----

INFANT MORTALITY

The rate for 1954 shows a welcome decrease and, of the three infants who died under the age of one year, one was due to marked prematurity at one day and one was due to a severe congenital cardiac abnormality.

The third occurred in a child of eight months and the cause was an acute infection affecting the circulatory system.

(3) Mortality Table

	Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
	All Causes	78	78	156
1	Tuberculosis, Respiratory ..	2	—	2
2	Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic Disease ..	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—
9	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	1
10	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ..	2	2	4
11	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	—	3
12	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ..	—	2	2
13	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ..	—	2	2
14	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	10	5	15
15	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	1	3	4
17	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	17	26
18	Coronary Disease, Angina ..	14	11	25
19	Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	1	2	3
20	Other Heart Disease ..	9	12	21
21	Other Circulatory Disease ..	2	2	4
22	Influenza	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	3	5	8
24	Bronchitis	3	1	4
25	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	—	2
26	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	1	1	2
27	Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea ..	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	—	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	3	—	3
30	Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ..	—	—	—
31	Congenital Malformations ..	1	—	1
32	Other defined and ill defined Diseases	6	11	17
33	Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	2	—	2
34	All other Accidents ..	1	1	2
35	Suicide	2	—	2
36	Homicide and Operations of War ..	—	—	—
	Still Births	1	2	3
	Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (two under 4 weeks of age)	1	2	3

SECTION B

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases

(1) Notifiable Diseases

Notifications of the following infectious diseases were received during the year

				All Ages	Under 1 year	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 65	Over 65	Rem. to Hosp.	Died
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	6	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	1
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	...	...	6	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	283	—	11	80	102	84	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Hepatitis	...	—	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	4	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning ...	...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Scarlet Fever ...	...	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever ...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	...	1	2	—	—	63	53	29	14	3	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	15	42	29	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1
Infectious Hepatitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	15	1
Food Poisoning ...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	4

The outstanding factor during the year was the Whooping Cough epidemic which had commenced at the latter end of 1953. In all 283 cases were notified, which was higher than in any year since notification became compulsory in 1940, the next highest number of 151 occurred in 1946.

The infection was mainly in the 3—7 year old groups and, it is possible that the younger children under 1 year, escaped due to the fact that Whooping Cough Immunisation had been carried out at the Welfare Centre from March, 1953.

(2) Tuberculosis

	MALES		FEMALES	
	Pul.	Non.-P.	Pul.	Non.-P.
Cases on Register at 31.12.53 ...	43	5	34	9
Number of cases notified during year	3	—	—	—
Number of cases restored during year	—	—	—	—
Inward transfer	1	1	4	1
Cases removed	15	2	8	2
Cases on Register at 31.12.54 ...	32	4	30	8

(3) Food Poisoning

Eight cases of *Salmonella typhi-murium* food poisoning were notified. Three of these cases occurred during July in a food handler's family. The father became positive within a few days of the first infection and, although he ran a "one man" business, he voluntarily co-operated and did not pursue his food handling until treatment had been carried out and negative stool samples were obtained.

The remaining cases were isolated *Salmonella typhi-murium* infections, but they differed from the others in that response to treatment was extremely slow and intermittent excretion of organisms persisted for several weeks.

(4) Diphtheria

A single case of nasal diphtheria occurred in an adult male. He was admitted to Hospital for a while but positive results were obtained after discharge. It was found, however, that the organism was of the Mitis type and was not virulent. All the other members of the household remained well and did not produce any positive results from nose or throat swabs.

(5) Prophylaxis against Whooping Cough, Diphtheria and Smallpox

Immunisation against Whooping Cough as well as Diphtheria remained the responsibility of the County Council, and the former was carried out from May, 1953 in all children under two years of age, for whom it was requested, at the Infant Welfare Centre and by some practitioners.

During the Whooping Cough epidemic it was found that, when compared with the total incidence, the cases occurring under two years of age were extremely few. It would appear that for this reason alone, continued immunisation is justified, so as to give protection in the first year, when the danger is greatest.

It is to be hoped that in future the incidence of Whooping Cough will be greatly reduced under five years of age, and also under eight years, should a booster dose be combined with the Diphtheria booster prior to entering school.

Vaccination against Smallpox also continued to be the responsibility of the County Council through the General Practitioners and the Welfare Clinic.

(6) Refuse

Refuse continues to be disposed of by tipping on land adjoining the Castle Grounds. When the scheme has been completed, a very fine area of open space in the centre of the town will be preserved.

(7) Drainage and Sewerage

Once again effluent samples reached the required standard and negotiations proceeded towards the construction of a new Sewage Disposal Works.

(8) Water Supply

The water supply was regularly sampled, and each sample proved to be satisfactory. There are still a considerable number of dwelling-houses in the town without a piped water supply inside the house. These properties are, however, receiving attention as opportunities for making improvements occur.

(9) Swimming Pool

Twelve samples of water were taken from the swimming pool during the summer and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. All were reported upon as satisfactory.

SECTION C

Health Services available in Bishop's Stortford

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT

Part II Hospital and Specialist Services

Bishop's Stortford and District Hospital

Staff : General Practitioners, Consultants and a Resident Medical Officer.

Facilities are available for Medicine, Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, Physical Medicine and Radiology.

Haymeads Hospital

Staff : Consultants, Registrars and Resident House Officers, Specialist Departments in the following :—Medicine, Surgery, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Orthopaedics, Paediatrics, Physical Medicine, Psychiatry, Radiotherapy, Ophthalmology, Dentistry, Venereal Diseases and Tuberculosis.

A Pathological Laboratory provides an excellent service at this Hospital.

Part III Services of the Local Health Authority

Hertfordshire

1. Home Nursing.
2. School Health Services consisting of :—
 - School Medical Inspections.
 - Clinics.
 - Speech Clinic.—Wednesday all day, Portland Road Clinic.
 - Orthodontic Clinic — Two half days monthly. By appointment.
 - Eye Clinic.—Monday 2—3 p.m. By appointment.
 - Haymeads Hospital. (In conjunction with Hospital Service.)
 - Minor Ailments.—Every morning 9—10 a.m. Portland Road Clinic.
 - General Clinic—Second and fourth Friday each month. 9.30 to 12.0 noon; Portland Road Clinic.
 - Child Guidance Clinic—Every Thursday 10—12 noon, 2—4 p.m. Portland Road Clinic.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare Services :—
 - Health Visiting.
 - Clinics.
 - Infant Welfare Clinic.—2nd, 4th Thursday, 10 a.m.—12 noon and every Thursday, 2 p.m. Water Lane Institute. (Facilities are provided for Diphtheria Immunisation and Vaccination).
 - Ante-Natal Clinic.—1st Friday each month. Portland Road Clinic.
 4. Home Help Organisation.
 - Organiser in Attendance. Tuesday, 10—11 a.m., Thursday, 10—11 a.m., Friday, 2—3 p.m., Portland Road Clinic.

Part IV General Medical Services

1. General Practitioners :—

Dr. R. P. Gammie	} 20, North St., Bishop's Stortford
Dr. G. G. Holmes	
Dr. G. A. Sharpe	
Dr. I. D. Paterson	
Dr. P. H. Hewitt	

Dr. R. A. Wallace, 40, Hadham Rd., Bishop's Stortford
 Dr. J. T. Wallace, 40, Hadham Rd., Bishop's Stortford
 Dr. E. Leigh, 11, Church Street, Bishop's Stortford

2. Dental Practitioners :—

Mr. J. Dickson	} The Folly, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
Mr. C. Bullpitt	
Mr. O. N. Catchpole, 6a, North St., Bishop's Stortford	
Mr. H. Davies, 14, Bridge Street, Bishop's Stortford	
Mr. G. E. Dodd	} 9, Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford
Mr. W. E. Dodd	
Miss Joan Dodd	
Mr. J. Rawlinson, 39, Hockerill Street,	
	Bishop's Stortford

Adequate provisions are made in the town for pharmaceutical services.

Voluntary Organisations

Family Planning Association :—

Clinics.—1st, 3rd and 4th Thursday, each month at 6.30 p.m. 2nd Thursday each month, 10.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m., Haymeads Hospital.

SECTION D

Sanitary Administration

(1) Inspection of the District

Total number of visits ...	...	...	...	...	2,558
Dwelling houses inspected for housing defects	...				447
Revisits to dwelling houses including works in progress	...	...	...	...	281
Premises inspected on complaint for nuisance other than housing defects	...	...	...	...	45
Revisits to premises where a nuisance was found to exist	...	...	...	...	27
Filthy or verminous premises	...	...	...	...	6
Special and miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	88
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	21
Re Infectious Disease and Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	42
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	127
Dairies, cowsheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	18
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	2
Butcher's shops	...	...	...	...	21
Fish shops	...	...	...	...	9
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	...	...	...	...	11
Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	9
Other Food Shops, Stores, etc.	...	...	...	...	143
Markets	...	...	...	...	18
Factories	...	...	...	...	22
Workplaces, Offices and Shops	...	...	...	...	1
Schools	...	...	...	...	3
Re Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	10
Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	890
Stables and Piggeries	...	...	...	...	1
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	66
Re Applications for Housing Accommodation	...	...	...	...	149
Rat infested premises	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	33
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	4
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	11
In connection with Sampling	...	...	...	...	48

(2) Complaints and Matters Referred

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	162
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	...	149
Complaints referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	13
Other matters referred to other Departments and Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	6

(3) Testing of Drains and Sanitary Fittings

Drains tested with water	...	...	...	...	209
Drains tested with other means	...	...	...	...	16

(4) Notices Served and the Results of the Service of such Notices**(a) Preliminary Notices**

		No. Served	No. com- plied with
(i)	Dwelling Houses for housing defects	92	70
(ii)	Premises for other than housing defects	4	1
(iii)	Special Premises (shops, factories, etc.)	6	3

(b) Statutory Notices—Public Health Act, 1936

		No. Served	No. com- plied with
Section 75 to provide a dustbin	1

(c) Housing Act, 1936

See Housing Section for details.

N.B.—The number of notices complied with may include notices outstanding from the previous year.

(5) Summary of Sanitary Improvements Effected

		At Dwelling Houses	At Food Premises	At Shops, Offices, Hotels. etc.
Damp walls and other damp conditions remedied	...	32	—	—
Roofs repaired	...	22	1	—
Gutters, rainwater pipes, etc., repaired or renewed	...	19	1	1
Fireplaces, hearths, etc., repaired or renewed	...	19	—	—
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	13	—	—
Floors repaired or renewed	...	31	2	—
Windows and doors repaired or renewed	...	59	—	—
Lighting and ventilation defects remedied	...	15	—	—
Walls repaired or renewed	...	49	1	—
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	37	1	—
Rooms cleansed and decorated	...	20	14	41
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	62	5	1
Yards paved or repaired	...	11	—	—
Drains cleansed or repaired	...	9	—	—
Water closets repaired	...	14	2	—
Water closets reconstructed or new provided...	...	6	3	2
Sinks, baths, etc., and waste pipes fitted...	...	13	4	31
Food stores provided	...	13	—	—
Accumulations removed	...	2	—	—
Hot water supply provided	...	3	3	—

(6) Disinfection and Disinfestation

				Rooms disinfected with Formaldehyde Lamps	Parcels of Bedding passed through Steam Disinfector	Houses disinfested with Hydrogen Cyanide	Houses disinfested by other means	4-oz. Tins of Izal issued	1-pint Bottles of D.D.T.	Insecticide issued
Following Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Following other Diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Following Vermin Infestation at										
(a) Council Houses	...	...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
(b) Other Houses	...	...	...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
TOTAL	...	...	...	3	—	—	3	—	—	—

(7) Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) MILK SUPPLIES

There are five producers of milk in the Urban District and three retailers of milk. Three of the producers are licensed for "Tuberculin Tested" milk, one for "Accredited" milk and the fifth is producing "Non-Designated" milk.

Two of the retailers are licensed to sell "Tuberculin Tested," "Pasteurised" and "Sterilised" milk.

94 samples of bottled milk were submitted for bacteriological examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory and of this number, one was found to be unsatisfactory.

Designation	No. of Samples Taken	No. Satisfactory	No. Unsatisfactory
Pasteurised ...	35	35	—
Tuberculin Tested ...	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	54	53	1
Sterilised ...	5	5	—

88 of these samples were obtained by the Department and the remaining 6 by officers of other authorities.

52 samples of raw milk were taken from churns on arrival at the Hallingbury Road Dairy and submitted for examination at the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory. 29 of these samples were of raw ungraded milk, all being satisfactory, and 23 were of raw tuberculin tested milk, four of which were unsatisfactory.

This raw milk is pasteurised at the dairy before delivery to the consumer.

(b) MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM

49 premises are now registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, an increase of six over last year.

Bacteriological Examination

3 samples of ice cream were submitted to the Cambridge Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, and all were reported to be grade 1 and therefore satisfactory.

	PROVISIONAL GRADING			
	1	2	3	4
Total number of samples ...	3	—	—	—
Number pre-packed ...	3	—	—	—
Number not pre-packed ...	—	—	—	—

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOOD INSPECTION

The number of premises subject to inspection under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, at the end of 1954 was as follows :—

Bakehouses ...	...	...	...	...	7
Butcher's Shops ...	...	...	...	...	12
Fish Shops ...	...	...	...	...	7
Other Food Shops ...	...	...	...	...	59
Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	...	34
Licensed Premises ...	...	...	...	...	59
Miscellaneous Food Premises	...	...	...	...	14

The private slaughterhouse at 4, South Street was licensed by the Council during the year and came into use in July when meat rationing ended.

1276 animals were killed at the slaughterhouse and all were inspected, fuller details being given in the tables below. The use of the slaughterhouse increased very considerably the work of the Department, but the need for a careful and

thorough meat inspection service is clear when the amount of meat condemned is considered.

The Ministry of Food approved the slaughterhouse as an Ordinary Deadweight Certification Centre for pigs, certification being carried out by the Council's sanitary inspectors. Clean fat pigs which weigh at least 60 lbs. deadweight and are fit for human consumption, are eligible for the guarantee payment.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats	Cattle
Number Inspected ...	35	649	438	1	153
All Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	67	68	—	29
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	5.7%	10.3%	15.5%	—	18.95%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	4	—	8
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	0.9%	—	5.2%

DETAILS OF MEAT CONDEMNED

	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Goats	Cattle
Heads and Tongues ...	—	—	41 lbs.	—	95 lbs.
Hearts	—	2 lbs.	5 lbs.	—	—
Livers	—	5 lbs.	78 lbs.	—	182 lbs.
Lungs	—	62 lbs.	48 lbs.	—	98 lbs.
Kidneys	—	—	1½ lbs.	—	—
Mesenterys	—	—	6 lbs.	—	—
Carcase Meat	56 lbs.	—	73 lbs.	—	28 lbs.

DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS FOUND UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Description	Weight or number	Description	Weight or number
Bacon	46 lbs.	Meat Pies ...
Beef	193½ lbs.	Pears ...
Biscuits	24 lbs.	Pork ...
Butter	3 lbs.	Pork Luncheon Meat
Cheese	17½ lbs.	Prunes ...
Corned Beef	1½ lbs.	Rabbits ...
Fish	98 lbs.	Sausages ...
Ginger Cakes	7	Tinned Meat ...
Ham	134½ lbs.	Tongue ...
Jellied Veal	7½ lbs.	Misc. Foodstuffs ...

(8) Rodent Control

(i) Disinfestation of Sewers

60 manholes on the foul sewerage system were test-baited and "takes" were recorded in 17 instances.

As a result of the test baiting two sewer treatments were carried out.

(ii) Disinfestation of Surface Properties

Number of Dwelling Houses treated	...	151
" Business Premises treated	...	141
" Council Premises treated	...	10
" Pre-baits laid	...	4,092
" " partly taken	...	935
" " completely taken	...	979
" Poison Baits laid	...	3,129
" " partly taken	...	815
" " completely taken	...	429
" Bodies recovered (a) rats	...	183
" " (b) mice	...	220
Total number of visits made by the operator		2,036

(9) The Storage of Petroleum-Spirit

64 premises are licensed for the storage of petroleum-spirit and were on the register at the end of 1954, an increase of 2.

(10) The Provision of Dustbins

Following the successful appeal by the Owner of No. 11 Grove Place against a Statutory Notice served under Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring the provision of a suitable covered dustbin, the Council decided to provide dustbins to dwelling houses and charge the cost to the General Rate Fund.

The scheme has functioned extremely well and 154 dustbins had been provided by the end of the year. There are many benefits to be gained by this method, the most important from the public health view-point being the standardisation of dustbins, paving the way to eventual dustless loading. The B.S.S. galvanised tapered dustbin has been selected as the most suitable and adaptable.

A great deal of time is now being saved, only one visit being necessary by the Sanitary Inspector, and defective dustbins are replaced by the Surveyor without delay. The risk of injury to workmen by handling jagged dustbins is very considerably reduced and a speedier collection is possible.

Without doubt this is one of the best decisions ever made by the Council.

(11) Factories Act, 1937

22 visits were made to the premises on the Register and it was found necessary in five instances to serve Informal Notices where contraventions existed.

It was ascertained from the lists submitted by the factory occupiers that there were 17 factory outworkers resident in the district.

Details of visits carried out and defects found and remedied are given in the tables below.

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	20	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	21	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	18	18	—	—
TOTAL ...	124	40	5	—

2. CASES in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (s 1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (s 2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (s 3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (s 4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (s 6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s 7) :					
(a) insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	4	4	—	—	—
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	5	—	—	—

(12) Housing

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority ...	... ...	76
(b) By Private Enterprise ...	... ...	114

Number of houses made available by conversion or adaptation of existing buildings ... 2

Eighteen Statutory Notices were served during the year in respect of properties listed below.

HOUSING ACT, 1936. SECTION 9

Houses capable of repair at reasonable expense.

9, Crown Terrace.	14, Jervis Road.
192, Dunmow Road.	38, Nursery Road.
27A, Hockerill Street.	185, Rye Street.

Reconditioning was satisfactorily completed at :—

9, Crown Terrace.	27A, Hockerill Street.
192, Dunmow Road.	38, Nursery Road.

Work was proceeding in connection with the two remaining properties.

HOUSING ACT, 1936. SECTION 11

Houses incapable of repair at reasonable expense.

75, Apton Road.	54, Middle Row.
77, Apton Road.	79, Newtown Road.
34, Castle Street.	35, Oak Street.
Riverside House,	37, Oak Street.
Dane Street.	50, Oak Street.
28, Jervis Road.	45, Rye Street.
52, Middle Row.	

Subsequently, Demolition Orders were served in respect of :—
75 and 77 Apton Road. 35, 37 and 50, Oak Street, 52 and 54, Middle Row, 79, Newtown Road and Riverside House, Dane Street.

Closing Orders were served in respect of 34, Castle Street and 45, Rye Street, and an Undertaking was accepted from the Owner of 28, Jervis Road. 45, Rye Street was subsequently reconditioned by the owner.

Two Appeals against the Demolition Orders were made to the County Court by the Owners of 79, Newtown Road and 52, Middle Row. Counsel appeared for the Local Authority when the appeal by the owner of 79, Newtown Road was

heard. The Judge thought that the expense involved in making the house fit for human habitation was not unreasonable and said that the Council ought to have accepted the undertaking given by the Owner. He allowed the Appeal, quashed the Order and awarded costs for the Owner.

Arising out of this Appeal and bearing in mind the views expressed by the County Court Judge, the Council did not defend the appeal by the Owner of 52, Middle Row and the Demolition Order in respect of this property was also quashed.

The Council rehoused the tenants of 35, and 37, Oak Street and the houses were subsequently demolished by the Owner.

The following houses were re-conditioned by the Owners during the year :—

13, Apton Road,	29, King Street.
136, Apton Road.	52, Middle Row,
8, Chapel Row.	44, Middle Row.
12, Chapel Row.	79, Newtown Road.
196, Dunmow Road.	45, Rye Street.
23, King Street,	

The total number of applications for housing accommodation on the File at 31st December, 1954 was 314 including 78 applications for aged person's bungalows. 136 applicants were still without separate homes.

The tabulated statement required by the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, as extended, is given below:—

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	447
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	728
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ...	175
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	222
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of	

	those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	98
2.	<i>Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.</i>	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	70
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</i>	
A—	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	18
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices (a) By owners	16
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
B—	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (a) By Owners	nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
C—	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	9
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
	(3) Number of written undertakings accepted...	1
D—	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil
E—Proceedings under Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of houses in confirmed clearance areas demolished	nil
F—Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949 :—	
(1) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)...	nil
(2) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2).....	nil
G—Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—	
(1) Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1)	2

4. *Overcrowding—Part IV, Housing Act, 1936*

No action was taken under this Part during the year.

